



Jonathan Black
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RAISED BILL NO. 385 AN ACT CONCERNING THE AMOUNT OF THE
DIGITAL MEDIA TAX CREDIT
Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee
March 15, 2022

Senator Fonfara, Representative Scanlon, Senator Martin, Representative Cheeseman and members of the General Law Committee: My name is Jonathan Black and I am a partner in Chair 10 Productions, LLC, a film production services company here in Connecticut. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on Raised Bill No. 385, An Act Concerning the Amount of the Digital Media Tax Credit.

Chair 10 Productions strongly supports Raised Bill No. 385. Our hope is that this bill will incentivize bigger budget productions to film in Connecticut, investing millions of dollars in the state and creating not only job opportunities but avenues for longer term investments as well.

With the ever-changing scope of entertainment and the movement of traditional theatrical films and television shows to digital and streaming platforms, it is important for Connecticut to be flexible in order to accommodate a range of different projects and remain competitive with other states. This bill offers the opportunity to do that, and paves the way for Connecticut to support not only larger productions, but benefit local communities as well.

Chair 10 Productions has been engaging with major streamers, networks, studios and production companies that have all expressed an interest in filming in Connecticut, with projects in the \$50-100 million range. These types of multi-million dollar investments in the state can bring major economic development to communities and local businesses including local bars, restaurants, hotels, caterers, construction companies, car rental companies and many more.

Myself and my partner Lauren, who grew up in Newtown, have been working in the entertainment industry for a combined 40+ years, and have decided to make Connecticut our home long-term due to the many amenities it offers. We are deeply committed to building the film community here in the state, but have been struggling as we've continually lost clients to states like New Jersey, New York and Georgia, which have very competitive tax credits.

Passing this bill will put Connecticut on more level footing with these other states and give us at Chair 10 a significant boost when it comes to promoting the state to our filming partners. With the support from this bill, we believe we can bring business of upwards of \$200 million a year to the state that will be invested in local cities and town and create a flourishing film community that can thrive for many years to come.

Chair 10 Productions fully supports this bill and we would love your backing to enact this legislation so that it can really benefit the state and local communities and vendors alike.